

Abstract

A system and process for forming absorbent structures is disclosed. Also disclosed are absorbent structures suitable for incorporation into absorbent products, such as diapers, training pants, adult incontinence products, feminine hygiene products, and the like. The absorbent structures include particularly shaped openings and a pair of opposing lateral flaps. When the lateral flaps are folded, the lateral flaps in conjunction with the openings form an absorbent structure having a high basis weight area in a desired location. The absorbent structures can be formed from a web having a uniform basis weight and may be formed without having to scarf the absorbent web as was required in many prior processes. In order to form the openings, masking members may be attached to a forming surface in an air forming process. The masking members are convertible for forming gender specific products if desired.